

(b) There were 10530 vacancies in Northeast Frontier Railway as on 31.01.2006 which has come down to 9140 as on 31.10.2006. Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies are filled up mainly through open market recruitment and promotions. All efforts are being taken to fill up the vacancies especially of safety categories.

Connecting Chennai with major cities of country

1904. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to connect Chennai and other major cities of the country with Delhi through high speed trains with the collaboration of Japan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the projects in this regard are likely to be executed; and
- (c) the other steps proposed to be taken by railways to introduce high speed trains for long distance travel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Private partnership in freight corridor project

†1905. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has raised serious technical points on private participation in the much coveted freight corridor project of Railways;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the said Ministry has stated that it would not be possible to grant approval to the said project without carrying out amendments in industrial regulation law;
- (c) if so, efforts being made for sorting out the said problem; and
- (d) whether Government would provide its own resources for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.